Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers headed by Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta, Finance Minister, West Bengal have in their Memoran dum, listed problems being faced by States. These, Inter-alia, included large interest burden, due to States having to pay higher interest rate on central loans as compared to average cost of borrowings of Central Gov ernment. .

(b) To enable States to supplement their efforts towards fiscal consolidation, the Government of India have proposed a debt swap mechanism to facilitate States to utilize the additional 20% net collections of small savings disbursable to States duhng current year i.e. 2002-03, for retiring high cost debt of States restricted to Government of India's loans and advances. Those States agreeable to debt swapping during the current year would be allowed additional market borrowing to enable them to retire further high cost debt.

(c) and (d) The Government of India in accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission have created the Fiscal Reforms Facility, 2000-01 to 2004-05, under which the States are enjoined to draw up their MediumTerm Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) aimed at fiscal consolidation and where performing States are eligible for incentive fund thereunder. Prudential debt limits are agreed to by the States under the MTFRP. So far the MTFRP of 16 States have been finalised.

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

1398. SHRI H.K.JAVARE GOWDA; Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that failure to enforce Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws entails huge revenue loss in the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect the manufacturers of genuine products and to save the consumier from duplicate products; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide training to judicial and police officers in tall aspects of implementation of I.P.R. Laws; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In-formation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The steps taken by Government for effective and speedy enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, *inter alia,* include sensitisation of police and customs personnel, creation of IPR awareness among users and general public and creation of separate ceils in State police headquarters.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of equity by PSUs

1399. SHRI V.V.RAGHAVAN:
SHRIJ. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all PSUs in power, oil and infrastructure sectors have been asked to pay 30 percent of their Profit After Tax (PAT) on equity whichever is higher and in case of other PSUs the minimum 20 percent of the PAT as dividends to the Government for the current fiscal years;

(b) if so, the details of companies which have paid so far giving the amount; and

(c) what is the budget estimate and estimated collection of dividend for the fiscal year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Budget estimate for receipts on account of dividends from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 9,455 crore. Till September 2002, dividends of Rs. 1957 crore has been received by the Government.

Review of Mauritius tax treaty

1400. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI VV RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to review the Mauritius tax treaty to stop the one sided favour being bestowed to